

441—159.3(237A) Project eligibility.

159.3(1) Grants will be awarded to community-based nonprofit incorporated agencies and public agencies that have the capacity to provide the following services:

- a.* Assist families in selecting quality child care. The agency shall provide referrals to registered and licensed child day care facilities and may provide referrals to unregistered providers.
- b.* Assist child day care providers in adopting appropriate program and business practices to provide quality child care services.
- c.* Provide information to the public regarding the availability of child day care services in the communities within the agency's region.
- d.* Actively encourage the development of new and expansion of existing child day care facilities in response to identified community needs.
- e.* Provide specialized services to employers, including the provision of resource and referral services to employee groups identified by the employer and the provision of technical assistance to develop employer-supported child day care programs operated on or near the work site.
- f.* Refer eligible child day care facilities to the federal child care food programs.
- g.* Loan toys, other equipment, and resource materials to child day care facilities.
- h.* Inform child day care facilities regarding technical assistance available from the department in obtaining insurance coverage at a reasonable cost.
- i.* Assist the department in providing child day care facilities with opportunities for group purchasing of equipment and supplies.
- j.* Administer funding designated within the grant to provide a substitute caregiver program for registered family and group day care homes.

159.3(2) Grants will be awarded to eligible agencies for the establishment of new child care resource and referral agencies and ongoing operation of existing child care resource and referral agencies.

159.3(3) Grant funds must be matched with at least 25 percent local resources. Eligible match includes in-kind contributions, private donations and public funding sources, except child care grant funds from the department of economic development.

159.3(4) Only one grant will be awarded per county to the agency which best meets the criteria outlined in subrule 159.3(1).

159.3(5) There shall be an advisory or incorporated board specifically for the child care resource and referral services representative of the child care community, parent consumers of services, public education, adult education, private sector organizations, business and industry.